

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 SAL-01 CG-00

DLOS-04 OES-06 OC-05 CCO-00 CAB-05 FAA-00 TRSE-00

/055 W

----- 012925

R 100724Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9841

USDA/FAS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL ENINGRAD

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

UNCLAS HELSINKI 738

FRANKFURT FOR FRDCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRA, EAIR, FI

SUBJECT: FOOD STRIKE ENDS, SHIPPING AND AIRLINE STRIKES

CONTINUE

REF: (A) HELSINKI 664 (NOTAL), (B) HELSINKI 670 (NOTAL)

1. STRIKE IN FINNISH FOOD-PROCESSING INDUSTRY ENDED
EARLY MORNING APRIL 8. FOOD SUPPLIES EXCEPT FOR IMPORTED
PRODUCTS, BEGAN TO RETURN TO NORMAL ALREADY THAT AFTERNOON
AND PRODUCTION LINES AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS EXPECTED
TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL BY MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. STRIKE
WAS COSTLY. WORKERS IN
INDUSTRIAL SIDE OF THE INDUSTRY (TWO-THIRD OF THE APPROXIMATELY
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40,000 TOTAL) WILL RECEIVE WAGE AND

BENEFIT INCREASES OF 10.8 PERCENT. THIS IS ABOUT 3 PERCENT ABOVE THE FIGURE AGREED IN THE NATIONWIDE INC

OMES POLICY SETTLEMENT IN JANUARY (HELSINKI 210). IN THE LOW-PAID DAIRY AND BAKERY SECTORS WAGE AND BENEFIT INCREASES AMOUNT TO 19 TO 22 PERCENT. SETTLEMENT AHS BROUGHT STRONG PRESSURE FOR INCREASED FOOD PRICES. MANUFACTURERS AND PROCESSORS WOULD LIKE IMMEDIATE PRICE INCREASES BUT IN VIEW OF CURRENT PRICE FREEZE ARE UNLIKELY TO BE GRANTED INCREASES BEFORE FREEZE REPLACED BY CONTROLS ON JULY 1. STRIKE ALSO COST UNION'S STRIKE BENEFIT FUND OVER 40 MILLIO FINNMARKS.

2. S

IKES CONTINUE IN SHIPPING INDUSTRY. STRIKE OF ICEBREAKER CREWMEN THREATENED (HELSINKI 670) FOR APRIL 2 WAS POSTPONED FOR ONE WEEK PENDING OUTCOME OF MEMBERSHIP VOTE ON COMPROMISE PROPOSAL. VOTE RESULTS HANDDED TO STATE LABOR MEDIATOR TODQY (APR 9) REJECTED COMPROMISE. ICEBREAKER STRIKE IS SEPARATE FROM SEAMEN'S STRIKE, HOWEVER, AND NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE WITH GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT DIFFERENCES WILL BE RESOLVED OVER THE WEEKEND. NEGOTIONS WITH FOUR OTHER STRIKING SEAMEN'S UIONS ARE STILL AT AN IMPASSE AND MANAGEMENT SOURCES FEAR THAT UNLESS BREAKTHROUGH OCCURS WITHIN NEXT 48 HOURS THE STRIKE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL AFTER EASTER. THIS WILL OF COURSE HAVE BROAD RAMIFICATIONS FOR RECESSION-HIT FINNISH INDUSTRY AND ADD NEW LAY-OFFS TO THOSE ALREADY ANNOUNCED. SEAMEN ARE THREATENING TO EXPAND STRIKE TO FINNISH SHIPS IN FOREIGN TRAFIIC UNLESS SETTLEMENT REACHED SOON (AT PRESENT ONLY SHIPS WHICH HAVE RETURNED TO FINNISH HARBORS, ABOUT 15 PERCENT OF TOTAL MERCHANT FLEETAN ARE STRICK). NEGOTIATIONS ALSO AT DEADENED IN LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE WHICH UNLIKELY TO END BEFORE SEAMEN SETTLE.

3. FINNAIR PILOTS REJECTED COMPROMISE PROPOSAL
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IN THEIR DISPUTE ON APRIL 6 AND CONTINUE WITH THEIR "ITALIAN" STRIKE. FINNAIR PILOTS ARE FLYING ONLY FLIGHTS FOR WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN INDIVIDUALLY SCHEDULED. THIS MEANS FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS ARE UNPREDICTABLE SINCE MOST RESULT FROM THE INABILITY TO SUBSTITUTE WHEN A CREWMAN IS ILL. THRSEE DOMESTIC FLIGHTS WERE CANCELLED ON THE 6TH AS WELL AS ONE FLIIGHT TO MOSCOW AND A CHARTER FLIGHT TO KENYA. THERE WERE

NO CANCELLATIONS ON THE SECOND AAY. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE
SLOWED DOWN AND STRIKE LIKELY TO LLAST SEVERAL MORE DAYS.
HOUSTON

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